(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of these tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a), (c), (d) & (f) A number of Tribunals have been set up by the Government under various Acts for dealing with cases arising under these Acts. These Tribunals are under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

(b) and (e) The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board which are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law and Justice were set up on 5.1.1941 and 1.1.1974 respectively. The number of cases pending in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (as on 1.10.1997) and the FERA Board (as on 18.11.97) are 3,00,939 and 4516 respectively.

**New Automobile Policy**

495. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new Automobile policy to explore the potential of export of spare parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likeiy to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The Exim Policy provides the framework for exports including export of automotive spare parts. Since the import of CKD/SKD kitts of passenger cars is restricted under Exim Policy, policy guidelines were formulated in the year 1995 for issuance of import licences to the joint venture auto companies for the import of CKD/SKD kits by way of signing MoU's of such companies with the Government of India. One of the parameters stipulated under the MoU was exports to be performed by MoU signing companies on the basis of projections made by them. These guidelines are subject to review by the Government, when the need arises.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Saree Scam**

496. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handloom (ACASH) had committed a big scam in the supply of dhoties and sarees to Bihar;

(b) is so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard:

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total amount involved therein; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons and ACASH?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Certain complaints have been received, alleging that some of the Dhoties and Sarees supplied by Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handloom (ACASH) to Government of Bihar were produced on powerloom instead of handloom. Immediately, the matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for preliminary enquiry. As internal enquiry was also conducted by the Textile Commissioner under Ministry of Textiles. This was again referred to CBI for investigation. The CBI has registered the case and the matter is under their investigation of the total actual supplies of approximately Rs. 35.40 crores to Government of Bihar, the actual value of supplies produced on powerlooms will be known after enquiry.

(b) Pending receipt of the Findings of CBI, the then Chairman, ACASH has been transferred and an official of the ACASH hadling the subject matter has been placed under suspension.

**Deregulation of Coal Prices**

497. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have deregularised the coal prices to improve generation of internal financial resources of coal companies;

(b) if so, the extent to which this decision is likely to facilitate in implementing the new projects and modernisation of the existing mines;

(c) whether the Government have also identified any blocks of the Coal India Ltd. with estimated reserves of 18856 million tonnes for captive mining by private and public sector companies;

(d) if so, the details of such coal blocks identified for the purpose and the names of the private and public sector companies which have been offered for mining; and

(e) the time by which these mining blocks are likely to be handed over for captive mining?